



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon!

LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center

I am excited to announce that the [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#) opens this Friday, Sept. 25 with a public opening at 1:30 pm on the second floor of the University Advisement and Enrichment Center. This center supports the LoboRESPECT strategic initiative, UNM's comprehensive approach to prevent and respond to sexual violence as well as other critical student concerns.

I hope many of you will join me, Provost Chaouki Abdallah, Dean of Students Tomas Aguirre, Lobo Louie and all of the staff who have worked diligently to make this new student service space possible, for its opening.

Institutional Assessment Days

Assessing strengths and benchmarking areas for improvement is an imperative business and institutional practice. This is even more important in academia, where educational strength assessment affects the entire student population.

A new initiative, UNM Institutional Assessment Day (IAD), will facilitate receiving feedback and gathering information from students about how well the University is doing in ensuring that our student's academic experiences are positive. This is one more way that we can measure UNM's effectiveness and efficiency, while ensuring that students are getting the skills necessary to succeed after college.

IAD is scheduled for Wed.-Thursday, Oct. 14 and 15 at UNM Main and Valencia campuses, and Tuesday-Wednesday, Oct. 20 and 21 at the Gallup and Los Alamos campuses. The initiative will include satisfaction surveys from various administrative and student support service departments as well as individual student assessments. Students, this is an opportunity for you to tell us how we are doing. Open and honest feedback about what we do well and struggle with is crucial in this process. Students who participate in at least three surveys and/or assessments will receive a UNM T-shirt and other free perks and prizes.

For more information about IAD or to inquire about participating in future IAD activities, please contact Neke Mitchell, director of Assessment, at (505) 277-4130 or assess@unm.edu.

Sarah Belle Brown Reminder

A reminder to the community, my office is currently accepting nominations for the [Sarah Belle Brown Community Service Award](#). The awards, which include \$1,500, are granted each year to a student, staff and faculty member. If you know someone who has selflessly dedicated time and effort to their community, please recognize him or her with a nomination. All nominations are due by next Monday,

Sept. 28 at 5 p.m. This is a great way to recognize our colleagues who make Albuquerque and New Mexico the kind of place where we all want to live. Take a few minutes to nominate someone who is doing something to make UNM great.

International Year of Light

How does the science of light impact your day-to-day life? Thanks to light and photonics we have the Internet, weather and climate monitoring, computer chips, solar cells, barcodes, various medical technologies and more. Without light-based technology, life as we experience it today would not be possible. Photonics is one of UNM's extraordinary strengths. Our efforts in this area are very important to business innovations and national security.

In recognition of this, the UN General Assembly 68th Session proclaimed 2015 the [International Year of Light and Light-based Technology](#).

It's fitting that the state's largest research institution celebrate this year with an event that will inform people of the many discoveries and advancements in this important field. UNM and its [Center for High Technology Materials \(CHTM\)](#) will host [New Mexico's Celebration](#) of the International Year of Light on Friday, Sept. 25 in the SUB Ballrooms A, B and C. The events, which will be led by some of the brightest minds on our campus, are free to the public. People wishing to attend must [register online](#).

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob